

## Message Text

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10

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

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O P 181115Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8058

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR MO

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SUBMARINE VISIT; PRESS GUIDANCE

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO INDICATION THAT SCHEDULED VISIT OF USS SEA DEVIL (SSN 664) TO SAFI, MOROCCO, MARCH 20-23, WILL ATTRACT MUCH ATTENTION LOCALLY. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT PRESS QUESTIONS WILL ARISE. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED BEFORE COB ON FRIDAY, MARCH 19, WE PLAN RESPOND ON IF-ASKED BASIS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES, AND SUGGEST WASHINGTON SPOKESMAN TAKE SAME LINE.

2. QUESTION: DOES THE USS SEA DEVIL CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

ANSWER: THE SEA DEVIL IS NUCLEAR POWERED BUT IS NOT A BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE. AS A MATTER OF GENERAL POLICY, APPLICABLE WORLDWIDE, USG DOES NOT DISCUSS DISPOSITIONS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3. Q: ARE THERE ANY POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS IN THE FACT THAT THE VISIT IS TAKING PLACE AT THIS TIME?

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A: FOR MANY YEARS THE U.S. NAVY HAS BEEN MAKING ROUTINE,

COURTESY VISITS TO MOROCCAN PORTS. AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THE VISIT OF THE SEA DEVIL SHOULD BE SEEN IN THAT CONTEXT.

4. Q: IS THIS THE FIRST TIME THE USN HAS SENT A NUCLEAR POWERED SHIP ON A VISIT TO A MOROCCAN PORT?

A: YES, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE.

5. Q: WHY IS THE VISIT BEING MADE TO SAFI, WHICH IS DOWN SOUTH, CLOSE TO THE SAHARA?

A: THE GOM HAS APPROVED OUR REQUEST FOR A VISIT TO SAFI, WHICH U.S. NAVY VESSELS HAVE PREVIOUSLY VISITED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. WE DO NOT ATTACH ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THE LOCATION OF THE PORT VISITED.  
ANDERSON

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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